

# NRC Student Rowing Report – 03.05.22

David Squirrell

It's been a busy few months for student rowing with Rutherford and BUCS Head on the Tyne followed by the London Heads and last weekend BUCS Regatta. Racing has become tighter at the top with Newcastle and Durham regularly trading places each race. The increase in competitiveness is great for the region and will hopefully push both on to greater heights. It was good to see plenty of Durham colleges also competing at these events and all the universities in the region having entries into BUCS Regatta. There were some issues with trailering space for clubs getting down to BUCS so I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to get as many crews down as we could.

One consideration that has been raised for event organisers is the sharing of boats. Lots of university and college crews will use the same boat for both their open and women's crews of that boat class. As such it is very helpful if these can be placed in different divisions. A few events seem to have started placing them in the same division which has caused issues and most likely reduced the numbers of entries that they have received.

I have reminded student clubs about the rules on substitutions as this has caused issues at a few events (although not just limited to student clubs) and has received a lot of attention in other regions.

## Results

In terms of results, there were plenty of wins for both Durham and Newcastle. Durham took most of the honours at BUCS events with 8 wins in total including winning the Women's VL at BUCS Head and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the VL at BUCS Regatta. Newcastle had 4 wins, winning the Men's and Overall VLS at BUCS Head. Down in London, Newcastle's top VILs beat Durham by 1s at WeHoRR and 20s at HoRR albeit in an open rather than a student crew, coming just outside the top 10 in both events. The fastest Durham colleges were Collingwood who placed 101<sup>st</sup> at HoRR and a Trevelyan/Josephine Butler composite who placed 130<sup>th</sup> at WeHoRR. At HoRR the Trevelyan/Josephine Butler composite won the Small Academic Pennant

Both universities also had plenty of representation at GB final trials. Newcastle had 3 current athletes racing and 6 alumni including Lola Anderson who took the win in W1x. Durham had 5 current athletes and 2 alumni. Several alumni are also involved in the GB squad but missed final trials including Lauren Irwin (formerly of CLS) who has been selected in the GB women's VIII to race in the Windermere Cup in Seattle.

There was also success for Durham alumni in the Boat Races with Olympic Silver medallist Angus Groom winning with Oxford before announcing his retirement. Former Durham development squad athlete Chris Rimmer also won with the Oxford reserve boat.

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